## **Article - Public Safety**

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## §14–212.

- (a) Except by order of court in a proceeding affecting the right of possession, an action for eviction or distress may not be brought against a person in emergency management service or person suffering injury or damage if:
  - (1) the rent for the premises does not exceed \$150 per month; and
- (2) the premises are occupied for dwelling purposes by the spouse, children, or other dependents of the person in emergency management service or person suffering injury or damage.
  - (b) (1) In a proceeding affecting the right of possession:
- (i) 1. on its own initiative the court may stay the proceeding for a period not exceeding 3 months; and
- 2. subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, on motion the court shall stay the proceeding for a period not exceeding 3 months; or
  - (ii) the court may issue any other order.
- (2) The court need not stay the action if the court finds that the ability of a tenant to pay the agreed rent was not materially affected because the tenant was a person in emergency management service or person suffering injury or damage.

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